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March 21, 2016

The Honorable Jim Frazier
Chair, Assembly Committee on Transportation
Legislative Office Building
1020 N St Rm 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2131 (Maienschein) 'Imagine No Hunger' License Plate – Support

Dear Assemblymember Frazier,

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) writes in support of AB 2131 (Maienschein), the Imagine No Hunger License bill, as it would provide much-needed support to California's emergency food safety net.

CFPA is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. More than 5 million Californians, including one in four children, face food insecurity every day. Many of these individuals rely on foodbanks for vital access to nutrition. Even among families connected to CalFresh, our state's primary anti-hunger program, one-third of households still rely on food banks. Ultimately, according to the national food bank organization Feeding America, Californians are annually missing more than 1 billion meals.

Yet California food banks strive every day to offer a proportional response to this vast need for food and nutrition. Our food banks annually feed more than two million people through traditional means such as community pantries and soup kitchens, and innovative methods such as the California Association of Food Banks' Farm to Family agricultural donation program that connects farms to food banks. CAFB represents 43 food banks throughout the state with a shared mission to build a well-nourished California. CAFB regularly partners with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to bring new, unique food bank programs to our state.

AB 2131 would establish the Imagine No Hunger license plate program within CDFA, giving Californians the option to purchase a specialty license plate from DMV to benefit California's food banks. The revenue generated from license plate sales will be instrumental in funding the California's food banks to reach our goal to end hunger in the Golden State. CFPA respectfully asks for your support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracey Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Tracey Patterson
Director of Legislation
California Food Policy Advocates